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AGRIGULTURE

HOW TO PREPARE SHEAF GRAIN AND GRASS SAM-PLES FOR EXHI-BITION.

The importance of an early selection of samples of small grains for the sheaf display at the National Corn exposition to be held at Omaha, December 9 to 19, 1908, should not be overlooked by the intending exhibitors. The greatest care should be observed in making these selections; only the very choice straws carrying fully developed heads. Cut these off close to the ground with a sharp knife. When large bundles have been secured sort them over for uniform, typical heads and uniform length and perfectness of straw.

The process of curing is the next feature of the work. Spread the selected samples out on the grass to bleach and cure in the sunshine, being careful to keep them guarded from all moisture, rain or dew, until they are well cured, which may require from one to three days, depending upon the weather and the ripeness of the straw when cut. As soon as they are in a satisfactory condition of outdoor treatment strip the blades off carefully, so as not to bruise or break the straw.

The reserve samples may now be collected into small bundles, not to exceed one to two inches in diameter, tie them with muslin or other soft string and hang up in a light, dry room, heads down, and let them hang until perfectly cured. These smaller bundles are usually consolidated into larger bundles or sheaves of approximately four inches in diameter and tied with ribbon; one band just below the heads, one at the center of the sheaf and one four to six inches from the butt of sheaf.

These sheaves may be loosely wrapged with cheese cloth. Some of the hest expert exhibitors let the small bundles hang from the ceiling until ready to exhibit, then put them into larger sheaves, believing that the hanging position is the afest and hest for retaining the shape of head and making a bright, attractive exhibit. All samples for the exhibition should be kept free from dust and away from mice and the house fly, as all these are damaging to exhibition quality.

In grasses the reverse condition applies in their preparation for show. All samples when gathered should be cured in a dry, dark place, and be excluded from the light and air by wrapping and storing where they will return their natural green and fresh appearance.

INDUCING FRUITFULNESS. Prof. Wendell Paddock.

Horticulturists have for many years practiced various methods to induce fruitfulness and with some degree of success. All these methods, as girdling the trunk, root pruning, and summer pruning of the branches tempo rarily check the growth of the tree. and the consequent slow growth induces the formation of fruit buds. It is well known that the buds which produce fruit in any particular season were formed the season before and their formation is believed to begin early in the growing season. This being true, the time is now at hand for such work; if put off much later in the season, it will be too late, as the time for the formation of fruit buds for next year's crop will soon be passed.

By root pruning is meant that a small portion of the roots are cut off. and the operation may be performed with a spade or in any way which is best suited to individual needs.

Summer pruning takes the place of the annual winter pruning, and is the same in most respects except that it is done in June

Girdling or ringing consists in removing a ring of bark from the trun; or larger limbs. This ring is sometimes two inches or more in width; all the bark within this space is re moved, thus exposing the wood. This method of checking growth, though often employed, is rather drastic, and should be used with caution. A more rational method is to girdle the branch or trunk by cutting through to the wood by making one continuous cut and not removing any of the bark.

Some authorities state that the proper time to check the egrowth of a tree in order to induce the forma tion of fruit buds is at the time when the bark begins to set on the new growth. As this is rather a delicate feature to determine the average persons will make no mistake if he does this work any time in June.